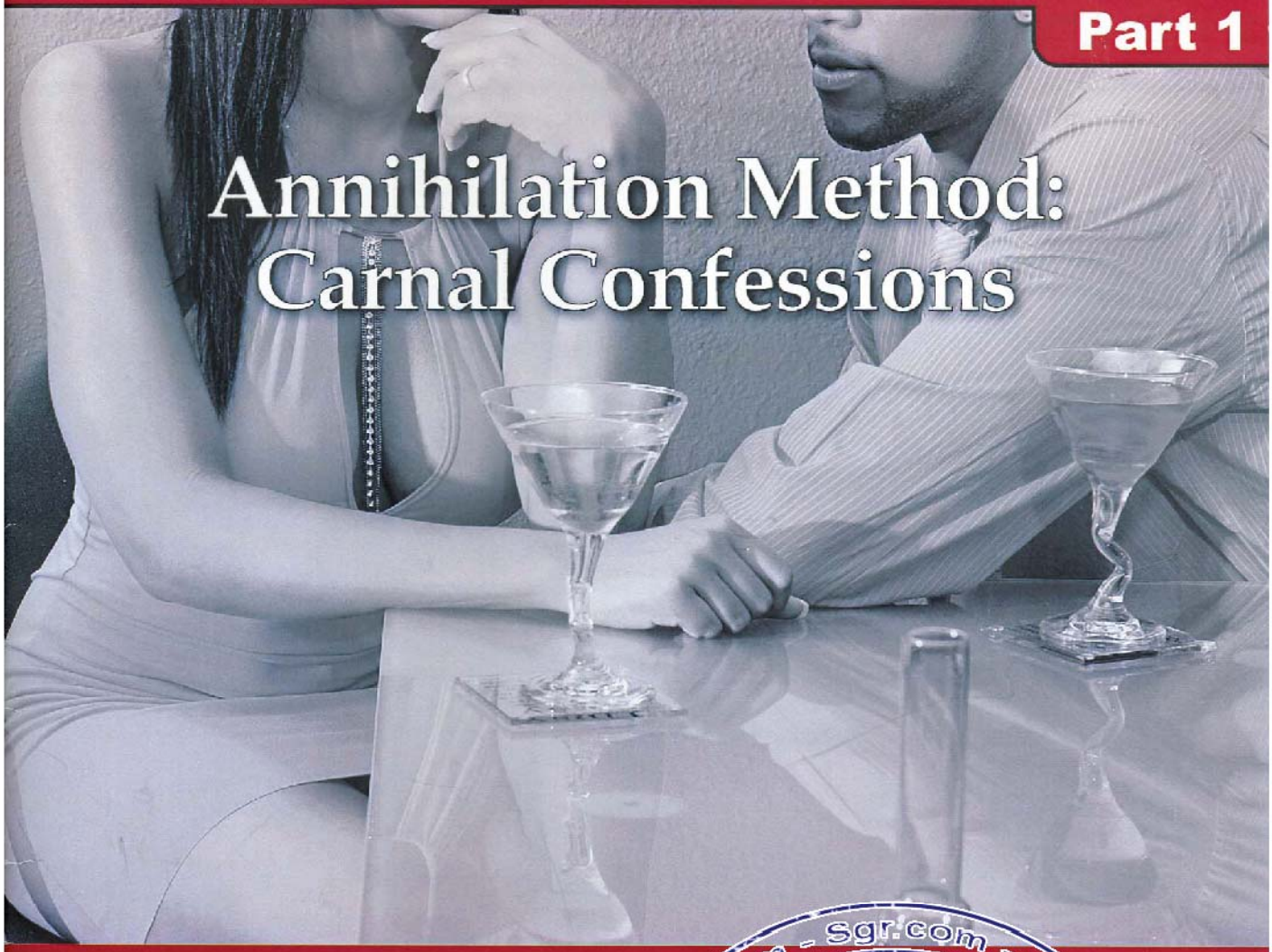
Part 1

# Annihilation Method: Carnal Confessions



# The Annihilation Method

by Neil Strauss

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*Neil Strauss:* So this is Neil Strauss and I'm talking with Susanna, who is actually one of the people who was briefly mentioned in *The Game*, and she is part of when I did an Internet experiment.

Or you're actually before that, actually. I was trying to learn how to get committed at the personals and I went onto Nerve.com and I put up a profile, and I think I experimented for a little while and then you can probably help refresh my memory, Susanna, about how we met and things.

But I think it was about –

*Interviewee:* You actually didn't have a picture.

*Neil Strauss:* I didn't have a picture, okay.

*Interviewee:* Yeah, you did not have a picture up.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. And it was – the reason why I'm doing this because, first, I didn't know what to do about the photo because I, like, I didn't come across great in a photo. I was – I was learning how to have a good personality.

But I thought, well, if people saw, you know, my photo they'd be turned off and I wouldn't have enough time to get my foot in the door.

And I soon solved that problem, by the way, which is I do an illustration now, like a great illustration that's really me but also an illustration and then when they e-mail I give them a cool photo so that way it comes up when people are searching for photos they get an idea of what you look like.

And then when you've expressed your lovely personality.

*Interviewee:* *(Laughter)*

*Neil Strauss:* You send them a photo or even better with the photos, by the way, is you send them a photo of – a photo that looks like or *is* from either a magazine or a Web site so it looks like you've got something going for you, you know, a photo of you with a celebrity at a club and a – in a – from a magazine.

And if that doesn't exist you can just make it on Photoshop.

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So that's sort of what I do now but that was back then. I think you were one of actually the first of second people I met off the personals.

*Interviewee:* Yeah, but the interesting thing is that you actually contacted me without knowing my photo.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. And I did that – and I purposefully did that because I – I was told, or I learned that people who have really got something going for them in life is probably not going to put their photo up because they're worried their friends will see them.

And sometimes the most attractive people, they said, don't put their photos up because they get too much responses.

So what I did is I looked at your weight and your size –

*(Laughter)*

*Interviewee:* Yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* And so I just wanted to, you know, and I think generally its going to – make sure I'm a skinny guy, so it's not an anti-fat thing, it's just that I just don't want to be with somebody that's maybe weighs twice as much as me.

So I looked at your weight and your size and then kind of your general personality from what you had written and then I mailed you, right?

*Interviewee:* Uh, yes, you did.

*Neil Strauss:* And do you remember what I said at all, or –

*Interviewee:* Yeah, I think I still have all the e-mails, believe it or not. I don't know, there's been probably some – yeah, you just – I think you commented on what – that you laughed at something I said, or I don't know, I can't.

*Neil Strauss:* Right, so I probably said one thing that – a comment specifically in a profile that wasn't a mass profile thing, and then I probably said something challenging such as okay we know what have you got going for you more than that write to me.

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I remember what happened and I said write to me and let me know three things about yourself that would make me get to know you better.

*Interviewee:* Right.

*Neil Strauss:* Right?

*Interviewee:* Right.

*Neil Strauss:* And of course send a photo.

*Interviewee:* And you know what? That was – it's funny because that to me is kind of like giving somebody a fill-in-the-blank questionnaire like you're compelled to do it.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee:* It's – I mean I probably could have gotten 50 e-mails from different guys but nobody, like, gave me a test.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. And so I assume that was a good thing because it was something fun?

*Interviewee:* Well, I think certain people respond to that. Like, I have to answer this.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee:* You know, so –

*Neil Strauss:* And so once you got it, what did you do? You went and checked out my profile or what happened once you got my e-mail?

*Interviewee:* I checked out your profile and – okay, and so I noticed that you were about my height and that sort of like was oh, okay well, you know, but that didn't deter me.

*Neil Strauss:* So it's like okay –

*Interviewee:* Height –

*Neil Strauss:* So the way I looked at weight, height is the first thing that you would look at as a woman?

*Interviewee:* Yes.

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*Neil Strauss:* You want to make sure it's a taller guy?

*Interviewee:* Yeah.

And age. I would like it – and so, uh, and then I read through, yeah, I read through it was sort of, you could tell that you were intelligent and also you had this literary, I mean you had like a poem in your –

*Neil Strauss:* Right, yeah.

*Interviewee:* – in your profile.

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah, for a guide further I had a – also I've heard another challenge of that – I put up a poem by – it's a great book, *100 Love Sonnets* by Pablo Neruda.

And I put up a poem, which is just a glorious poem, and I said hey, if you know who this is by, you get extra credit.

In addition to being a great poem, I also thought if somebody is inspired by it they would obviously write me.

And I think it was where I slipped and stalled myself and I said well I'm going to sell myself, I'll just read you a poem because it's a gorgeous poem, right?

*Interviewee:* Right, no it was – it worked.

*Neil Strauss:* Good.

*(Laughter)*

*Interviewee:* Yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* And so then – and then – I think I also said at the bottom since there wasn't a photo there I think I might have said in the letter to you that, you know, I'll send you a photo and don't worry about it I'm fit and cute/handsome and fun or something like that.

I kind of wanted to make sure I put some – since my photo wasn't up in my profile. I wanted to make sure there was something there.

There was an e-mail that, yeah I'm not going to easily show when you get the photo.

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*Interviewee:* Yeah, I didn't – you know what? I don't remember that, but I wasn't concerned for some reason.

*Neil Strauss:* Awesome – it could have been, I think, intelligent and my size and height and age seemed about right.

So then the next thing that happened was that you e-mailed me "three things."

*Interviewee:* I e-mailed you "three things." You – I – we went back and forth, actually, several times before coming out with pictures.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. And – we did. Okay. So then I was probably, yeah, because I was so new to it, maybe I was still kind of scared about it because I didn't have a cool photo.

At the same, yet and again it – to guys listening now, I'm 5'6" and big-nosed and scrawny, and I feel like if you seen me with my personality with my smile and my all this I'm a great guy, but I also feel like, you know, I'm sure a lot of guys have this problem, they feel like they're sort of inadequate or always really worried.

You know, I sense that I'd lose all the progress that I'd made. And really this was really going beyond in my learning; I was still new to what they call the "game." I was probably maybe six months in or something like that.

Maybe three months in. I don't remember, because you were the first or second I met.

So anyway, you e-mailed me the three things. I remember one was like something like yoga on the beach, I think?

*Interviewee:* Uh, yeah I – wait, the three things that I –

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah.

*Interviewee:* – that would get you to want? No, I – three things about me?

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee:* You know, I can't remember. What I'd done was that I was – that I was deeply loyal to every – to people in my life. I remember that.

*Neil Strauss:* Which is true; you're loyal enough to be doing to be doing this phone conversation.

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*Interviewee*: So, that was one of them. I don't remember the other two. I don't know why I remember that. But it probably was yoga on the beach or something, or boot camp, or – boot camp.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: It was boot camp on the beach.

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah, see, I remember. And so you sent me these things and I think I sent you back like, okay, that's – you know, you got three points for this.

*Interviewee*: Oh, no, this is it. This is it. That I had so much energy that I could, like, go out all night, party, like get up at six in the morning, go to boot camp and then work all day.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*(Laughter)*

And so – so right. So I got those and I remember I sent you an e-mail back saying, okay, you get three points for this, three for that, three for that, at 20 you get my phone number or something like that.

*Interviewee*: Right, you made it into a game.

*Neil Strauss:* And into a game because I remember when you finally got my – when we finally exchanged numbers, I remember your e-mail said I've never had to work so hard for someone's phone number in my life.

*Interviewee*: Yeah I did, and also you deducted points for something at one point, and I was like *fuck me*. I mean, I was like this can't be happening.

*Neil Strauss:* That's funny. I took away points?

*Interviewee*: Yeah.

*Neil Strauss*: What did you do? That's so funny.

*Interviewee*: I was – I don't know. I can't remember what you took away points – it was something about how I was too business-like in my e-mails.

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*Neil Strauss:* That's funny. Cause I think, I think the whole idea behind it was mostly in this world or online there – guys are trying to sell themselves to girls and say like me because of this, like me because I've got this going for me, like me because of my job or my last girlfriend was – I was – my – I get along with my mother.

Guys are always trying to sell themselves so much to women and I felt like I'm going to flip it around and try and make – try and be the prize myself so you have to work for me and I'm such the prize.

*Interviewee*: Right.

*Neil Strauss:* And because, you know, you always get guys are always in that position of begging, and right away you lose your, you lose your value if you're begging.

So I felt like why don't you take it extremely in the other direction where I'm going to make it a competition for you to win me and I'm going to be the prize.

And as obnoxious and cocky as that sounds, if you do it right it works.

*Interviewee*: Yeah, but in the process I think its like never, you know, it never occurred to me that that's what was happening.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: It's like it was almost like, it was just fun.

*Neil Strauss*: Right. Exactly. And I wanted you to – it was a way for us – you know – and here's the other thing. It's like a story of "101 Arabian Nights."

The whole thing is – skirts around – and I'm probably saying that wrong so any English major out there can connect and correct me or literature major.

She, you know, I'm keeping the story going so that it can make the interaction fun. Why should anyone e-mail someone back again? Well, now we're kind of working toward something.

Well, along the way it's not just about this contest, we're getting to express our personalities and find out we like each other.

*Interviewee*: Right.

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*Neil Strauss:* So that's more like it. So we entered – we had the e-mail exchange, we exchange pics, and then we set up the time to meet, right?

*Interviewee*: Uh –

*Neil Strauss:* We talked on the phone. We must of talked on the phone first.

*Interviewee*: Yeah, we talked on the phone.

*Neil Strauss:* You gave me your number.

*Interviewee*: Yeah, we talked on the phone and then I think we had a problem scheduling the first time we met, like maybe a couple of times we couldn't get together, and then finally we figured out a time or something, which kept me, I have to say, that kind of kept me in, too, because it was sort of, uh, I don't know –

*Neil Strauss:* Look, I have things to do, I wasn't overly available. Obviously I had a life.

*Interviewee*: Right. I think it kept you hooked in, too, because I mean it was like I just had the same situation going on. I couldn't see you or whatever.

*Neil Strauss*: And I remember I don't know I'm sure I do this to say – would always do this whenever I call someone I would never say hey its Neil, I would refer a private joke. I'd say okay you win; you've got the 20 points.

Or something like that. It's sort of like – as soon as you pick up I would say something so I wouldn't have to say it's Neil but I'd say – you'd pick up the phone and I'd say all right congratulations you got 20 points.

So that you'd know it's me without me having to say my name.

*Interviewee*: Right.

*Neil Strauss:* And as cheesy as it sounds, I'd always begin with a story, because we just met online and we had a great talk. I called; I'd just blitz you with questions.

*Interviewee*: You know what's really – you know what happened with you, though? Actually? I remember this. You called my phone accidentally.

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*Neil Strauss:* Uh-huh.

*Interviewee*: Before we even talked. And you hung up or something.

*Neil Strauss:* I did? Really?

*Interviewee*: Yeah, and then you admitted to it but you were like you did not intend to call me but –

*Neil Strauss:* So like I called but I dialed your number accidentally and hung up?

*Interviewee*: Yeah, you totally did, like you – you had my number in your phone or something at that point.

*Neil Strauss:* Oh, I must of like done that thing like where you dialed it in your pocket or something.

*Interviewee*: Or something. And –

*Neil Strauss:* Did you hear me heavy breathing or anything?

*Interviewee*: No. I can't remember what it was, but I was like – I – don't remember – I mean I looked at the number and it was not a umber that I knew.

And then you – I, you actually gained points for admitting to the screw-up.

*Neil Strauss:* Oh, yeah I think that's totally fine. Like, I think that's another thing of strong value. If you call and pretend like you didn't or your phone just accidentally fucked up.

You got to treat somebody like you would treat a friend you've known for a long time.

If you accidentally call a friend you've known for a long time you're like oops, that was me earlier, I'm sorry about that and that's actually cool rather than saying oh – rather than trying to pretend it wasn't you.

So, you know, if you have the attitude of I'm going to treat this person like someone I've know for a long time.

*Interviewee*: Right.

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*Neil Strauss:* You're going to know what to do when these – trouble-shooting emergencies take place.

And then I'm sure I started with a story because I will always start a phone call – I – as cheesy as it sounds, like and I'll admit this to you now, but on my computer I keep a list of fun stories to start conversations with.

*Interviewee:* Oh, I know. You had a – they were all great.

*Neil Strauss:* So – because I felt like I didn't want to start giving you an interview or feel like have you feel like I was doing a survey that all those getting to know you questions are so – we've been through them so much, right?

*Interviewee:* Oh, I know, they're a drag.

*Neil Strauss:* Like guys when they come up to you and they'll say, you know, how are you, what's your name, where are you from, what do you do for work, what do you enjoy about it?

Don't you feel like you're kind of just on autopilot having done this so many times before?

*Interviewee:* Well, it's also – I think what the biggest turn on for me anyway is that – and a lot of guys feel this that maybe like they're wasting their time with somebody and they have to get as much information as possible.

If you feel like the person's in the moment with you, like they're wanting to have a good moment, or share a good story, then it doesn't – there's nothing cheese ball about it.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. It's – yeah, and it's cool when you can have a conversation for an hour and maybe be like wait, I don't even know what you do for work. Or –

*Interviewee:* Right, exactly. Exactly. And so it – you know – it's almost like it's a bit of leap of faith almost like just like I'm just going to do something unconventional.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. So now we'll move on to the, I remember there was a place called the Casa Del Mar which is kind of a hotel lounge right across the street from my house and near your place.

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And I said we'll meet there just for an hour, right? We made it short.

And it was –

*Interviewee*: You made it very clear that you had other things to do.

*(Laughter)*

*Neil Strauss:* And I actually did. Believe it or not, I had a date afterwards.

*(Laughter)*

Not from the personals. Oh my God, I had crazy adventures after that. I'll tell you about it when we're done with this phone call. When we're done.

*Interviewee*: What was that? You had what?

*Neil Strauss*: I said I had some crazy adventures afterward; I'll tell you about.

*Interviewee*: Oh, really? Okay.

*Neil Strauss*: Or maybe at the end you guys can hear it also.

But I've learned in this – I actually learned from a guy named David D'Angelo. I have learned that the first time you want to set a limit on it because A) that way it will be – it's easier to come if you know it will only be for half an hour or an hour and that way I can get away if the guy is creepy.

And so, you know, I think I just said it will only be for an hour and because I've got stuff to do afterward and I think that makes sense. You don't want it going long.

*Interviewee*: Right.

*Neil Strauss*: You don't want an involved date; you haven't seen each other yet.

*Interviewee*: It's safe for everybody.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. And so I was really nervous. And I think this – you know – I was actually nervous because having been new to the personals world this was one of the first women I was meeting and I was – when you see someone you judge them right away.

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And so I walked into the Casa Del Mar and you saw me. You said something really nice or sweet and I was like, okay we're off to a song.

You said something nice when you saw me like you said something like you know you weren't totally disappointed.

*Interviewee*: I can't remember what I said.

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah. I can't remember either but right away I walked in and you said something positive about my appearance, and so I'm like, I kind of felt like you know comfortable and relieved, because part of the reason I got into the game is I felt insecure about my looks which I don't any more because I know they – guys – you know they don't matter as much as guys feel like they do.

And then we sat down for – we sat down for a while, and got a couple of drinks right?

*Interviewee*: Yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* And what in – do you remember what we did right away? I think we started with the cube. You think I did that with you?

*Interviewee*: Well, basically – yeah, we started – it was interesting you – you there was a sofa – there was sort of like a sofa and chair arrangement. And you sat on the chair and I sat on the sofa.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: And the body language was hysterical because you were very, like, you create a little bit of distance and I got really comfortable. You just –

*Neil Strauss:* I did that on purpose, because when you meet a new guy right away it's part of that thing of making her have to chase me a little bit if I sat down on the sofa next to you and I was like, you know my legs were crossed and already I'm leaning in too close, so it was just to make you – my reaction was to back away.
So I felt like I'm going to choose the chair. That way I'm making the choice not to sit next to you because you're making the choice not to sit next to me.

*Interviewee*: Right.

*Neil Strauss:* It's so funny all the subtleties to – they really do count and register.

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*Interviewee*: Right. In the beginning. So I'm like sitting on the sofa. Next thing you know I'm like draped over the arm, like, wanting to inhale you at the end.

*Neil Strauss*: Right, exactly. Exactly.

And I think if I had come in right away and sat down next to you and been all over you, it would have been –

*Interviewee*: No, forget it.

*Neil Strauss:* – you would have moved back instead of come toward me.

*Interviewee*: Right.

*Neil Strauss*: Did we do the cube?

*Interviewee*: Yeah, you did the cube.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

I think I wanted to start right away and again instead of asking the questions say here's a way to get to know each other.

Because I love the cube. And for the guys who are listening to this the cube will be on the – you know, you'll have it in your workbook and on your DVD or something.

But we did that right away and what did you think when I did that? Do you remember?

*Interviewee*: I remember thinking, I did remember thinking oh, he's probably told this story like a couple of times already.

But I was – it was – it was like a fun ride so it – I was in, I was hooked.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. Okay. And then – what else did we do? I remember we did a mind-reading thing, I think?

*Interviewee*: No. I don't –

*Neil Strauss:* Maybe that wasn't you. Anyway.

*Interviewee*: No. You know what, you did the mind-reading thing with me like probably months later I think.

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*Neil Strauss:* I just remember fun, okay. Probably hadn't learned it yet.

*Interviewee*: But I – I remember just you, yeah, you were telling stories and I think I was asking a lot about kind of what you did, and I kind of made it easy for you, I think.

*Neil Strauss:* That's pretty nice; I appreciate it.

*Interviewee*: I was giving you compliments.

*Neil Strauss:* You were. It was awesome.

*Neil Strauss:* So, anyway so we sat down, we played the body language thing. I probably busted out the cube right away just to kind of get to know you a little bit and break that awkward tension and talk and did we probably did the usual chitchat thing.

And so this – and this is a question I'm going to ask you and but I always advise guys always to ask this for women because it's useful feedback is – when did you first realize that you wanted – you were attracted to me or that it was going to work out?

*Interviewer*: Uh, well, I'd say it was unusual with you, because I mean it wouldn't I don't know that – uh, I would say it's as soon as you – as soon as I saw you.

*Neil Strauss:* Right, yeah. I could tell, for some reason.

*Interviewee*: So it's not really to say that – I don't know that what you said was so – there was chemistry from the beginning.

*Neil Strauss*: Right. All I had to do was not make any mistakes.

*Interviewee*: Right.

*Neil Strauss*: A lot of people – because a lot of –

*Interviewee*: We were coming in with a full – you were coming in with a full deck.

*Neil Strauss*: Right. Right.

*Interviewee*: So, yeah.

*Neil Strauss*: Right. But I – right, exactly. You could have – but again you still could have liked me as soon as you saw me and I could have

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creeped you out or could have been really boring and that would have gone away so once you liked me, all I had to do was do nothing wrong.

*Interviewee*: Uh, right. Which I mean it was – and you know, with coming in with that kind of clout you – I probably could have – I probably would have been in compromising mode anyway.

It wouldn't have bothered me so much, but –

*Neil Strauss:* Thanks. I learned the cube for nothing is what you're saying.

*Interviewee*: Yeah, forget it. You didn't need the cube.

*Neil Strauss:* I could have just talked about my wash pan and been okay.

*Interviewee*: I'm trying to think. I mean I think that I would have to say that the initial hook was in your writing, in your e-mails and then I remember getting your photo and thinking, oh my God, I've never been with anyone that's so not my type –

*Neil Strauss:* I knew you would think that, that's why I didn't put it up online.

*Interviewee*: Yeah, no exactly. Never would have gone out with you had you like just randomly, you know what I mean?

And so that hooked me in, and then the – I think it was the whole process. It wasn't – I don't think that you can say okay, you can go on a date like it was just – because the whole – there was a lot invested in it.

I mean you e-mailed me let's say, I can't remember, I remember it was like February or March. It was probably the end of February.

And your birthday is March what? 15th or 14th? 15th.

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah.

*Interviewee*: So I remember there was like a full two weeks invested in it.

*Neil Strauss:* Right, exactly. There weren't a lot of e-mails; there was kind of like a lag. I think – another thing that I do and it's true is that I'm just really busy so I'm slow to respond to e-mails.

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*Interviewee*: Yeah, but that – that's kind – that kind of works. Because it sort of – your – there seemed to be a time investment. Even though it – there really wasn't.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: You know what I'm saying? Like even like I'm – I didn't know that you were off like whatever probably like e-mailing 10 other people or working or whatever.

So to me it felt like maybe every other day or something I might get an e-mail from this person and look forward to it and then all of a sudden, oh, I'm like – I'm trying to get points for his phone number, oooh.

And then next thing you know I'm like I can't wait to see what he looks like.

So the whole thing was like this anticipation. So, yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: So that's kind of – it didn't feel drive-through.

*Neil Strauss:* So it was a fun sub-plot.

And now so the next thing I remember is I did have – so I had to leave and I went out and we went out to my car or your car, I forget who's car.

*Interviewee*: My car was parked right out front, yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* We went out to your car and then at that point you wanted to make out. And what happened? I don't know remember what happened, but I just remember we –

*Interviewee*: I wanted to make out in Casa Del Mar.

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah, consequently.

And so could I – just describe it because I remember, I just don't remember how it sort of happened or –

*Interviewee*: I mean it was pretty – it was quite smooth. I mean you – I'm walking to my car with you and then you – the natural thing would have been for me to go towards my car door.

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*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: And you became the car door.

*Neil Strauss:* Oh, yeah, yeah. I was doing that because it's funny because and anyone who listens to this who will read my archives that's – for a long time I was really stuck on how to kiss a woman, and this was actually at a point when I was still really in learning the game and it depends on how to have it down smooth.

I knew though that I wanted to naturally make it happen almost like I was in – I think I'd read this, actually. I don't do it any more, but I remember this as a period when I was doing it.

Because my attitude was anything that a guy suggested I would try thinking it was almost a – to get in the way between shutting her car door and sort of make it an accident.

Your lips sort of just meet as they're going for the car and you're sort of there.

It's almost like a – it's just either there rather than kind of making a lunge for you from behind or making it awkward.

*Interviewee*: Yeah, it was quite smooth.

*Neil Strauss:* That's great.

*Interviewee*: You know, I was already going for the car door. And then when you became it you planted yourself in front of it, it was natural. I mean it was pretty natural and the whole thing seemed natural.

*Neil Strauss:* And then – and then we made out – it was pretty hot and heavy for a while and I remember I was thinking in that moment should I blow off my next plans and try to take you up to my place?

Of should I just go on to my next plans because you know what? I knew we were making a solid connection. I knew that no matter what I could – we would see each other again; it wouldn't be like you were just going to use me for a make-out and leave.

*Interviewee*: Right. Right.

*Neil Strauss:* So I knew we were – I knew it. But I thought well, should I push it and try to take you upstairs. So I wasn't going to ask you because I don't know that answer. I wasn't sure. I felt like it was 50/50.

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If I had said hey, you know what? I've still got an hour before – before I have to be at a club. You want to come upstairs and I'll show you those – that – play you that song. You know whatever.

You know? I had to make some excuse. Would you have done it or no? Or would you have waited?

*Interviewee*: Uh, I would have done it. But it wouldn't have been the right thing.

I think that it would like strategically it would have – put it this way, I would have felt that maybe your – the plans that you had were not – you were full of shit or something.

Like I think that for me feeling that you were 100 percent sincere and everything, which you did. You had plans and you had – whatever. And I just would have felt like maybe you didn't – yeah, I don't know.

I probably would have felt manipulated.

*Neil Strauss:* So in other words you would have come up – you would have done it but you still would have had doubts and maybe would have given me a hard time and maybe after you did it you would have felt guilty and bad?

*Interviewee*: Yeah, I think that I definitely would have gone to your –

*Neil Strauss:* But it didn't matter, because what we did worked out because obviously we're still talking and we – we had a great time. So yeah, it would have happened but it would have been a little awkward.

Or it would have been like a little – you would have had a – it would have broken a little bit of the trust we had?

*Interviewee:* I think so. Or it would have seemed not in keeping with sort of the flow that we had going.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. Exactly. Because I felt like that was a possibility. I really felt like there was enough attraction.

Let me ask you another thing. When you were on the Internet, what – you were kind of looking for – you wanted like some – like friends, plus. You wanted some – you weren't really looking for a

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boyfriend or anything you wanted some fun male physical adventure in your life.

*Interviewee*: Yeah, pretty much. I was open to whatever.

*Neil Strauss:* Right, okay.

*Interviewee*: But I wasn't – no, I wasn't specifically looking for sex; no I definitely wanted to maybe meet somebody who was on my level.

*Neil Strauss:* Okay, cool.

*Interviewee*: Yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* It's kind of funny. I think that was one of those weird nights where I ended up with like, just everybody I met because I was still learning the game and it was still very exciting for me, and it was really all starting to come together at that point.

So anyway so later on we made a plan for you to come over to my place, right?

We were going to do photos. Right? We were going to do – I was going to have you come over and – do photographs, that's what we said.

*Interviewee*: Yeah you had – you said you had some kind of promo or something that – or something that – or something – magazine article in Europe or whatever that you needed –

*Neil Strauss:* I did. Yeah, I needed to have my photo taken for something; I can't remember what it was now. I do know I use it, right – you guys can always do this to if you're looking to make a – take a good personal photo but you don't have to say – hey, I need you to come over and take a good personal photo.

But I think you were taking – I wanted to have you come to my place but I also did really need these photos taken and I didn't know who could take them.

And so we went around and we went up and had some fun and we went on the beach I think and put on different wigs and brought along a surfboard, right?

*Interviewee*: Yeah.

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*Neil Strauss:* And we just got –

*Interviewee:* We went out in front of your building, yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* It was pretty long, like there anything that wasn't anything that wasn't going on; I knew that we would end up sleeping together and you did, too, probably.

*Interviewee*: I'm sorry. That –

*Neil Strauss:* I knew we were going to end up sleeping together at that time.

*Interviewee*: Oh, yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah. And so it was on. It was like all we had to do was just have fun and not – you know – I knew when we came back to my place and it would just happen. You know.

*Interviewee*: Very clear.

*(Laughter)*

*Neil Strauss:* And did you feel like since it was clear that you were kind of – did you feel weird going over did you sort of felt like you were expected to sleep with me or anything like that?

*Interviewee*: Oh, Jesus.

*Neil Strauss*: Or were you kind of into it?

*Interviewee*: Oh, Geez, I'm 37 years old for God's sakes. I mean women get over it by then.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*(Laughter)*

*Interviewee*: I mean it is an age thing, right?

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: Or 36. No, I was 36. No, I had no – I mean I had no complexes about it. I mean it wasn't like I didn't have any hang-ups about it at all.

*Neil Strauss*: Right.

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*Interviewee*: And I think, I think that – I mean it wasn't, it was really like it just felt natural, and I think that's really the key. I mean it was, I felt like we weren't, you know you weren't, I felt like you weren't faking it.

I mean you were – we were having a good time.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. So afterward I remember we just started making out and we went back to my room and kind of did the whole thing. We slept together.

I don't think there was any – we just kind of – it just all sort of happened.

Clothes came off, there was no doubts I think in either of our minds what was happening because we knew we were attracted to each other, we knew we had chemistry. Right?

*Interviewee*: Oh, yeah, no, it was – that was a no-brainer.

*Neil Strauss:* Any other thoughts on the – on that moment of crossing the line into bed?

*Interviewee*: Well, you're right. I mean you're right it's like all the work had been done. If there was work. There was no work.

I mean that's really the whole point. It was like it felt like it wasn't. It started off as playful – it started off playful and that's how it progressed.

*Neil Strauss*: Right. So, again, it was sort of like the tone of the interaction had been set.

We were going to be people who enjoyed each other's company, and enjoyed each other as people and in bed, and it was sort of going to be a sexual friendship, I guess.
And I remember after, right after we had sex I was kind of surprised because you left very quickly afterward.

*Interviewee*: I did? Oh, I'm sorry.

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah.

*Interviewee*: I think that I'm – no, I didn't – I didn't have any thoughts of defining it in my head, really. You know what I mean?

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*Neil Strauss*: Because I actually thought – go ahead.

*Interviewee*: I –

*Neil Strauss*: I thought –

*Interviewee*: I didn't really think what is – what's happening. I was not even thinking, I mean really. I was just kind of like wow; I'm having a good time.

*Neil Strauss*: Right. Because I thought actually you were trying to set up a border and say because you would leave the first few times you would leave very quickly afterwards I thought you were trying to set a border that this was just going to be about sex so you don't get any feelings.

*Interviewee*: Uh-huh –

*Neil Strauss:* I kind of thought that was your message at first.

*Interviewee*: I probably – I didn't – that wasn't – I wasn't conscious of it. I mean it wasn't like a – you know what I mean? Yeah it's weird. I'm sorry.

*Neil Strauss:* No, no, that's okay. So now the question – now along the way, however, we had great sex and great connections and despite the fact that I'm sort of – was known as a pick-up artist I never really believed in one-night stands.

I believe anyone you slept with should be someone you want to sleep with and be with again.

So along the way, though, I felt like you started to develop, like, strong – like stronger, like we definitely things got out of sync for a little while. Do you remember that?

*Interviewee*: Uh, out of sync?

*Neil Strauss:* Because I got – because at first I thought it was – because at first you were – I thought you were kind of trying to put a border on it saying well, hey, don't get feelings just about sex or anything when after a while like you got – you kind of wanted more out of the relationship than you were getting.

*Interviewee*: Oh, yeah, definitely. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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I would say that – I don't know, I mean it kind of went back and forth.

You know, I was dating other people, but yeah. Definitely.

It was one of those things that I think for women there is sort of – you know you let somebody in sexually and you know it just always happens that you – we develop feelings.

It's just – it's pretty – it's classic; I mean it's classic.

*Neil Strauss:* Right and that's – and here's what I found interesting. I felt like that in certain things I've been in situations where, you know, through some combination of a woman developing great feelings, and me sort of also being distant or seeing other people at the same time, that things happen where things sort of came to a head.

I saw this a little bit with us where you sort of want more and wasn't ready to give more and there was a point where we sort of could have badly parted and never talked to each other again.

And it was sort of this rocky period for a while. And then you sort of made it over that hump and you explained it to me one day and you said well I – I forget how you explained it.

What made you sort of decide? Because I thought that was very interesting guys out there who have been less experienced, you really have to get in there and know what I'm talking about but I find a woman will get more into you than you are into her and that often means they'll break it up if you can't escalate it.

And I've found that without escalating it you kind of came back to say well, you know what, I like what we have and I don't want to lose it.

I forget what it was you had a very interesting explanation for it.

*Interviewee*: I remember distinctly what I said. I think I – you know we were at dinner or something, and I just said to you that I would never want to change anything about you.

And it's really just it's going to come down to me making a choice.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee:* And I chose to continue to see you.

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*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: But with the understanding that you would never – there was nothing that I would change about you.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: So yeah so that – as soon as I was clear with that, then that was like, it was okay.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. I think the problem sometimes come when people's expectations are different so as long as both people are honest you see if you can work with that as long as you're not leading someone on and saying something you're not.

Like I was trying never – didn't want to be dishonest or, as long as I was straight up I figured you would know, you know, what I was like and what I expected and then if you'd know if it was something you could live with or not.

*Interviewee*: Right. And then when I couldn't live with it any more I didn't.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: You know? But I think at that point, like, I mean I don't know – I don't know. I can't remember.

I mean it was like, Christ it's over a year and a half ago, you know?

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: Yeah.

*Neil Strauss:* But I think didn't you say at some point you know what I figured that you might as well share it. Do you remember? You said something like that. Something very similar.

*Interviewee*: I did. I said you're too fucking good. I may as well like – deal with it or share it.

*Neil Strauss:* Right. And so then the other thing I was going to ask was I can't remember what I was going to say.

I guess we've sort of broken it down. I don't know if this is helpful to guys or not. It's my first – it's the first group that I've talked to about this.

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So it's interesting to know some of the things that I guess you were sort of thinking of at the time and – just for fun since we have a couple more minutes.

You know you knew I was probably seeing other people. Did that bother you at all? I tried to be honest about it without telling stories unless you wanted to hear the stories.

I think sometimes that you did.

*Interviewee*: Well, we told stories in the beginning you and I.

*Neil Strauss*: Right.

*Interviewee*: And I remember you telling me you met some, I don't know, you met some woman and I think you made out with her in more – I don't know what you did. In the bathroom of some club or something and I – and I just – it was instant.

I was like I don't want to hear this story. You – and you picked it up. You were like all right. You don't wan to hear this. I'm like nope. I don't want to hear any stories any more.

*Neil Strauss*: So you felt like okay, you know it's going on but you know let's just not talk – so you don't have to think about it.

*Interviewee*: Right. I mean yeah, right. Right. I mean it's just – it was just a fact and I couldn't really do anything with it.

Yeah, of course it bothered me.

*Neil Strauss*: Right.

*Interviewee*: I mean –

*Neil Strauss*: It's like I don't know if other guys are like this. I knew at some point with that guy some guy you were seeing kind of one other guy for a while at that time.

It didn't bother me for some reason. Because I wasn't – I mean obviously I didn't – I wouldn't expect the same from you. That would be hypocritical.

*Interviewee*: Right. Right. Uh, yeah I think that it – I sort of didn't really – I didn't really think about it in the beginning that much that you – you were really open book.

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*Neil Strauss*: I was really what?

*Interviewee*: You were very open book.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: You know. So –

*Neil Strauss:* Okay.

*(Laughter)*

*Interviewee*: So any more questions?

*Neil Strauss:* That's pretty much it. I think we kind of spelled it out in detail.

I don't even know – I don't even know if it's going to be interesting to guys and I thought it would be fun to go through the sort of moments and those decisions and things so unless there are any other thoughts you have on what, you know, what made this sort of work whereas, you know, other dates might not.

*Interviewee*: I think that really, I mean, you know, as much as you it seems like maybe you were out trying to score with a bunch of women or whatever but there was a – in my opinion there was effort put into it.

Like you were – you wanted to I felt like in the end you wanted to spend time with me.

*Neil Strauss:* Oh, yeah of course.

*Interviewee*: I mean it wasn't just you weren't just going through the motions and it wasn't just like –

*Neil Strauss:* No I really liked you. I really liked spending time with you. I liked everything about you.

Even when we didn't have sex it was great. When we went out and we just met and you gave me a blowjob in the car and I went home. You know what I mean?

Whatever. Whether we met for just sex or we met for just talking or we met to go have some fun, weird activity – it was all awesome.

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*Interviewee*: Right. So it just I think that it didn't feel like work ultimately. I mean that's what made it – that's what made it fun. That's what made it worth it and that's why I – you know – am still talking with you.

*(Laughter)*

*Neil Strauss:* Exactly.

*Interviewee*: So, you know –

*Neil Strauss:* Yeah, I agree. So it's really more you did this unlike guys who put a lot of logical thought into it just sort of felt right all along.

*Interviewee*: Exactly. I think, you know, you just can't be mechanical about these things.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: You know? So.

*Neil Strauss:* Well I tried my best. Even when I read these – just how mechanical it all was. But behind mechanics was just stuff – the mechanics were just ways for me not to make mistakes or do things wrong like I have my whole life before.

*Interviewee*: But there's a sincerity behind that. I think you really wanted – it was like you really into figuring out women, I guess.

*Neil Strauss:* Right, exactly.

*Interviewee*: Figuring out, you know, how to win them over or whatever it is.

*Neil Strauss:* I think even tested something – like I was learning some sexual things. I think I even tested them on you. Like the hypnotic sexual –

*Interviewee*: Well not – I mean that was really – that was key. I mean especially if you're going to be with a woman in her 30s it's like you know no woman is going to stick around for bad sex.

*Neil Strauss:* Right.

*Interviewee*: I mean maybe a girl in her 20s but you know it's – we're just – we've been there done that. It's like you have to, yeah.

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*Neil Strauss:* Guys always ask how they can keep a girl maybe or have sex with her. My theory is give her an orgasm. You know? I really feel like if the sex is good and she had an orgasm, she'll ususally come back for more.

*Interviewee*: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. Yeah. I mean –

*Neil Strauss:* You have to be so shallow.

*Interviewee*: You, yeah and it's – yeah. Read up on stuff.

*Neil Strauss:* Well anyway thank you so much for doing this. This rocks. I hope it's helpful to guys. I think it was helpful to us. I don't know.

And I'll call you later but thank you so much for doing this; it was fun.

*Interviewee*: Yeah, it was. All right. I'll talk to you –

*[End of Audio]*

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